

Fort Marcy Battery Kemble Fort Bayard

NATIONAL

Fort Reno
Fort DeRussy
Fort Stevens

PARK

no Battleground ussy National ens Cemetery

Fort Totten
Fort Bunker Hill

Fort Chaplin
Fort Dupont

Fort Stanton
Fort Ricketts

Battery Carroll Fort Greble Fort Foote

Fall 2011

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Vol. II Issue 3

150 Years of Defense By: Mark Maloy, NPS

Before the Civil War, the only fortification guarding the capital of the United States was Fort Washington, located 12 miles south of the city. This fort only had a one man garrison in December 1860 when South Carolina seceded from the Union. Most Washingtonians seemed not mind this lack of fortifications because of the influx of tens of thousands of soldiers into the capital. In the spring and summer of 1861, many Americans, both North and South believed the Civil War would be decided by one large battle, and everyone would be home within the year. When Union forces invaded Virginia on May 24, 1861, they immediately began building some earthwork fortifications to defend the Long Bridge (near the modern 14th Street Bridge), the Aqueduct Bridge (near the modern Key Bridge), and Alexandria; More extensive fortifications weren't deemed necessary at that time.

At the Battle of Manassas, fought on July 21st, 1861, Union forces were routed by Confederate



Soldiers, slaves, and free African Americans contributed to the construction of the forts around Washington including this stockade in Alexandria, National Archives photo.

troops, sending the Union army reeling back to Washington. Confederate cavalry occupied the Falls Church area of Northern Virginia, less than 10 miles from the White House. Leaders on both sides realized that the war was going to be long and bloody. Northern leaders now saw that the nation's capital was unprepared to defend against a major attack by the Confederate forces. General

(Continued as **Defense** on page 6)



Commemoration of the Battle of First Manassas By: Wesley Gant, NPS

Conditions at the Battle of First Manassas were hot, humid, and dusty. The weather of the 150th commemoration of the battle lived up to its historic role. Despite the record temperatures during the 4 day event 22,000 visitors still made it to the 150th commemoration of the Battle of First Manassas.

The weekend was highlighted by an opening ceremony that included historian Edward Ayers and Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell. The biggest draw of the weekend were the multiple demonstrations of the black powder weapons that were used in the battle; over 8,000 visitors saw how the infantry operated muzzle loading weapons and the artillery operated smoothbore



Ranger Hank Elliot leads one of the many interpretive programs that occurred at Manassas, NPS photo.

cannons on the battlefield. Other activities included walking tours of the battlefield, a talk by former NPS Historian Ed Bears, and a concert by the Federal Brass Band. Thanks to the help of over one hundred volunteers from the community the event was a successful kick off for The National Park Service sesquicentennial commemorations.



Featured Fort: Fort Slocum

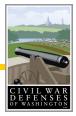
This fort stood next in line going east from Fort Stevens. The Fort was constructed by the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry and named for Col. John S. Slocum, a casualty of the first battle of Manassas.

The fort occupied a strong position among the hills east of the 7th Street Road. And it was here at 11:20AM July 11th 1864 the first shots of The **Battle of Fort Stevens** were fired by the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. During the battle 1,500 employees of the War Department and over 2,800 Convalescents from nearby hospitals came out to protect Washington.

Fort Slocum became the location of neighborhood victory gardens during WWII. The gardens caused major damage to the earthwork fort. Today only remnants of the Earthwork remain.

Directions: Fort Slocum is located at the intersection of Kansas Ave. and Madison St. NE Washington DC.

Fall 2011 CWDW Newsletter Editor: Wesley Gant Contributors: Mark Maloy, Jessica Heinz.



October

All NPS events are **FREE.**For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6 10AM Ft. Dupont Ft. Mahan 2PM Ft. Stevens 3PM Ft. Stevens
2 Ft. Mahan 1PM Ft. Dupont Ft. Washington	3	4 5:30PM Ft. Dupont	5 11AM Arlington House	6	7	8 10AM Ft. Mahan
9 10AM Georgetown Waterfront Park	10	11 5:30PM Ft. Dupont	12	13	14	15 9:30AM-3PM Ft. Dupont
Ft. DeRussy 1PM Ft. Marcy 2PM Ft. Stevens	17	18 ★ 5:30PM Ft. Stanton	19 11AM Arlington House	20	21	22 10AM Ft. Dupont
23 PM Ft. Foote 30 21PM Ft. Bunker Hill	31	25	26	27	28	29 65 10AM Ft. Dupont O 5:30PM Ft. Washington O 7PM Arlington House

November



Volunteer Opportunity



Ranger Talk 1 hour



Ranger led Hike 1 hour



Bike Ride 2 hours (bring your own bike)

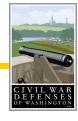


Community event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
- 19		1	2 11AM Arlington House	3	4	5 \$\hat{k}\$ 10AM Ft. Greble \$\hat{k}\$ 11AM Ft. DeRussy \$\hat{k}\$ 2PM Ft. Stevens
6 PIPM Ft. Greble	7	8	9	10	11	12 10AM Ft. Mahan
13 PIPM Ft. Marcy Ft. Washington	14	15	16 11AM Arlington House	17	18	19
20 1PM Battleground National Cemetery 2PM Ft. Foote	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 PM Ft. Stanton	28	29	30 11AM Arlington House			

December

All NPS events are **FREE.**For more info call 202-426-7723



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 50 10AM Ft. Dupont 11AM Ft. DeRussy 2PM Ft. Stevens
4 PM Ft. Dupont	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 11AM Arlington House	15	16	17
18 PM Battery Kemble	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Civil War Defenses of Washington
Fall Calendar

All events are <u>free</u> and open to the public

(Water and comfortable shoes are recommended for all hikes)



October 1 10AM Fort Dupont: Civil War Defenses of Washington Bike Tour - This mountain bike tour will journey along the Civil War Defenses of Washington Hiker-Biker trail. The off-road trail takes riders through many parks exploring the Civil War earthworks and urban forest. Program presented in concert with WalkingTown DC. Minimal experience riders and kids are welcome. Please bring bike, helmet, and water. Parking is available at the Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).



October 1 11AM and 1:30PM Fort Mahan: Watts Branch
Tour – Join Anacostia Groundwork DC founder Dennis
Chestnut for a 1.5 mile hike along Watts branch and
learn about the various strategies being used to restore
the ecosystem around Watts Branch: Presented in
concert with WalkingTown DC. Parking at Benning Road
Library (3935 Benning Rd. NE Washington, DC).



October 1 2PM Fort Stevens: The Summer of 1864 - Discover the actions that led to Jubal Early's raid on

Washington. Program presented in concert with WalkingTown DC. Parking available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).



October 1 3PM Fort Stevens – Fort DeRussy – Fort Reno: History, Nature, and Culture within the Civil War Defenses of Washington - Hear about the Civil War history of the fort sites, how they became important to the cultural development of surrounding areas, and see a unique natural environment within an urban landscape. This will be a 3 mile hike of higher difficulty Starting at Fort Stevens and ending at Fort Reno; please plan accordingly. Program presented in concert with WalkingTown DC. Parking available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).



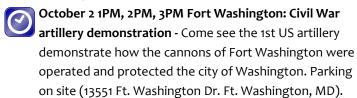
October 2 11AM and 1:30PM Fort Mahan: Watts Branch Tour – See Oct. 1 information.



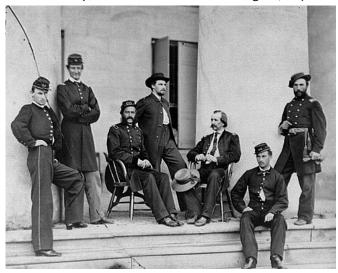
October 2 1PM Fort Dupont: The Defenses of Washington Early in the War -Join a Park Ranger at the Fort Dupont Earthworks and learn about Civil War Defenses of Washington in the autumn of 1861. Hear about the pivotal Fairfax Court House Conference and the Confederates' opportunity to attack DC in 1861.

(Continued from Events on page 3)

Parking available on site (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).



October 4 5:30PM Fort Dupont: Hiker/Biker Trail Series
Segment I - This hike will cover the northern section of
the trail from Fort Dupont to Fort Mahan. The hike will be
a moderate 4 mile roundtrip. Meet at the Fort Dupont
Earthworks. (4160 Alabama Ave. SE Washington, DC).

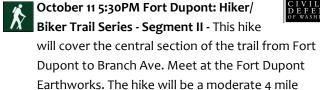


Gustavus DeRussy and staff at Arlington House, NARA photo.

October 5 11AM-2PM Arlington House: Take in one of the best views of the city and learn about the role Arlington played in the Defense of Washington. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA).

October 8 10AM Fort Mahan Park: Talk n' walk
Saturdays – Join a Ranger on a moderate hike along the
Hiker Biker Trail and learn about the National Park
Service and Washington's Civil War fortifications. Meet at
42nd and Grant street. Parking at Benning Road library
(3935 Benning Rd. NE Washington DC).

October 9 10AM Georgetown Waterfront Park:
Georgetown on the Defense - Georgetown played an important role in the history of our Nation's Capital especially when conflict with other nations loomed.
Discover how the citizens of Georgetown helped the war efforts throughout American history. Parking on the street (3100 K St NW, Washington, DC).



Dupont to Branch Ave. Meet at the Fort Dupont
Earthworks. The hike will be a moderate 4 mile
roundtrip (4160 Alabama Ave. SE Washington, DC).
October 15 9:30AM-3PM Fort Dupont Park: Feet in the

Street – Join the National Park Service and the DC Department of Transportation at one of the largest parks in the District. The roadways in the park, including Fort Davis Drive and Fort Dupont Drive, will be closed to motor vehicles and park visitors are invited to come put their Feet in the Street and run, walk, bike, skate, or just play. There will be organized activities and programs with local music performances at the Summer Theatre Stage. Parking is available at the Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).

October 16 9:30AM Rock Creek Nature Center:
Footsteps in Time History Hike - Learn about victory
gardens, eccentric Poet Joaquin Miller, the Civil War in
Rock Creek Park, and more on this 2 and ½ mile loop
hike. Parking available at Nature Center (5200 Glover
Rd NW, Washington, DC).

October 16 11AM Rock Creek Nature Center Fort
DeRussy Hike - Discover what life was like for Union
soldiers encamped at Fort DeRussy on this one-mile
hike. Learn how the fort helped defend Washington,
DC. Moderate hike. Parking available at Nature Center
(5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

October 16 1PM Fort Marcy: The Battle of Ball's Bluff - 150 years ago this week, the Union ran into a disastrous event along the Potomac. Come to Fort Marcy to learn more about the battle, its aftermath, and the impact on the city of Washington. Parking is available on-site (north-bound George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).

(Continued as **Events** on page 5)



The Civil War Online

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(Continued from Events on page 4)



October 16 2PM Fort Stevens: Defenders of Washington - Walk the earthworks of Fort Stevens and experience the lives of the men that defended the Capital in 1864. Parking available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).



October 18 5:30PM Fort Stanton: Hiker/Biker Trail Series Segment III - Hike the southern section of the trail from Fort Stanton to Branch Ave. The hike will be a moderately difficult 4 mile roundtrip Parking at the Anacostia Museum. (1901 Fort Place, SE Washington, DC).



October 19 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See October 5 information.



October 22 10 AM Fort Dupont Activity Center: Native Plant Walk - Walk the park trails with a group of botanists and conservationists from the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Anacostia Watershed Society and learn about the park's wonderful flora and its amazing natural history. If you have any question please contact Jorge Bogantes at: (301)699-6204. Parking is available at the Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).



October 23 1PM Fort Foote: The Big Guns - Come to Fort Foote Park and learn about the creation and operation of the 15 inch Rodman gun. Parking available on site (8915 Fort Foote Road, Fort Washington, MD).



October 29 10AM Fort Dupont: See October 1 information.



October 29 5:30PM Fort Washington: Open Fort - Tour the Fort that protected Washington from 1814-1946 and learn about the history of the defense of Washington through the ages. Parking on site (13551 Ft. Washington Dr. Ft. Washington, MD).



October 29 7PM Arlington House: Open House - come visit the Robert E. Lee Memorial and learn about the role this home played before, during and after the Civil War. Parking at Ranger Station (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA).



October 30 1PM Fort Bunker Hill: Grisly Tales from Civil War Washington - This Halloween, come and learn about the hospitals and medicine used around Washington and learn how Halloween was celebrated in the mid-19th century. Parking available on site (1300 block of Otis Street NE, Washington DC).



November 2 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See October 5 information.



November 5 10AM Fort Greble: Fort Greble
Nature Hike - Join a Ranger for a short fall
nature hike through Fort Greble park in search of fall
colors and turkeys. Parking available on site (200
Elmira Street SE Washington DC)



November 5 11AM Rock Creek Nature Center: Fort Derussy Hike - See October 16 information.



November 5 2PM Rock Creek Nature Center: Life of a Soldier - Explore the events that occurred during the summer of 1864, which led to the battle that saved Washington. Walk among the earthworks of Fort Stevens and experience the lives of the men that defended the Nation's Capital (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).



November 6 1PM Fort Greble: Washingtonians in the Civil War - Learn about the daily life of the men who manned the Civil War Defenses of Washington. See replica Civil War uniforms, accoutrements, and cannonballs. Parking available on site (200 Elmira Street SE, Washington, DC).



Battleground Cemetery circa 1900, National Archives photo.



November 11 2PM Battleground National Cemetery: The Men who defended Washington - Learn the personal and intimate stories of the lives of the men who died saving Washington, DC during the Battle of Fort Stevens. Parking available on site (6600 block of Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC).



November 12 10AM Fort Mahan: See October 8 information.



November 13 1PM Fort Marcy: The Blue and the Grey: Uniforms of the Civil War - Join a Park Ranger at Fort Marcy and learn about the different types of uniforms that were developed in the American Civil War and

(Continued from Events on page 5)

used in the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Parking available on-site, (North-bound George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).



November 13 1,2,3PM Fort Washington: Civil War artillery demonstration - See October 2 information.



November 16 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See October 5 information.



November 19 10AM Fort Dupont Activity Center: Let's Talk Turkey - Learn about native turkey populations while hiking the trails in Fort Dupont Park. Explore Fort Dupont in search of evidence of the wild turkey population. Hike of moderate difficulty. Parking is available at the Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).



November 20 1PM Battleground National Cemetery: Battleground Cemetery Hike to Fort Stevens - Join a Ranger on a 1 mile roundtrip hike; Battleground National Cemetery to Fort Stevens. Learn about the battle for Washington and visit the reconstructed earthworks of Fort Stevens. Begins and ends at Battleground Cemetery. Parking available on street (6600 block of Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC).



November 20 2PM Fort Foote: Defending the Potomac – Join a Ranger at Fort Foote to learn about the history of defenses on the Potomac river from the War of 1812 to today. Parking available on site (8915 Fort Foote Road, Fort Washington, MD).



November 27 1PM Fort Stanton: Escape of an Assassin - Join a Ranger at Fort Stanton to learn how John Wilkes Booth fled the capital after assassinating President Lincoln. Parking at the Anacostia Museum. (1901 Fort Place, SE Washington, DC).



November 30 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See October 5 information



December 3 10AM Fort Dupont: Civil War Defenses of Washington Bike tour - See October 2 information.



December 3 11AM Rock Creek Nature Center: Fort Derussy Hike - See November 5 information.



December 3 2PM Rock Creek Nature Center: Life of a soldier - See November 5 information.



December 4 1PM Fort Dupont: A Tactical Civil War - With advancement in weaponry the tactics of war changed, join a Ranger for a talk at the Fort Dupont Earthworks and learn how the Civil War generals adapted to the changing battlefield. Parking available on site at Fort

(Continued from **Defense** on page 1)

George B. McClellan appointed Major John G. Barnard of the Army Corps of Engineers in charge of constructing a ring of forts and batteries around the large perimeter of Washington, DC. Over the next few months a huge engineering feat was undertaken as trees were felled and earthworks built up. This hard work was done by the soldiers and hired African-American laborers (many were exslaves who escaped to the forts seeking protection and freedom). By the end of 1861, 48 defensive works encircled the city, providing some security and comfort to the government and citizens in Washington. Although many of these forts never saw any battle throughout the war, they were ultimately successful in providing a deterrent to a major Confederate offensive. Over the next three years the works would continue to grow, eventually encompassing 68 forts and 93 gun batteries; All starting with the first major construction occurring in the fall and winter of 1861. During the fall and winter of 2011, the 150th anniversary of the construction of many of these forts, the National Park Service invites you to come and see the remnants of this impressive fort system, and learn about their significance in the American Civil War.

Dupont Earthworks (4000 block of Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).



December 10 10AM Fort Mahan: Fort Mahan Nature Hike - Join a Ranger for a winter nature walk through Fort Mahan. When the leaves fall in November and December it is much easier to appreciate some of the hidden gems in the park, the earthworks, a bird or deer, and the views. Parking at Benning Road Library (3935 Benning Rd. NE Washington, DC).



December 14 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See October 5 information.



December 18 1PM Battery Kemble: Christmas 1861 - On the 150th anniversary of first Civil War Christmas, hear about what life was like in the Washington forts in December of 1861. Parking available on site (2800 block of Chain Bridge Road NW, Washington DC).



Have Ideas? Contact Us!

Program Manager / Civil War Defenses of Washington 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW Washington, DC 20008 (202) 829-2161